

303 Stockton Lane  
Richmond, Virginia 23221

August 12, 2004

SCANNED  
BY SS  
DATE 8-16-04

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION  
**RECEIVED**  
AUG 16 2004  
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS  
RICHMOND, VA

Mr. Larry Kubrock  
Division of Communications  
State Corporation Commission  
P.O. Box 1197  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Re: Consideration of Underground Wiring

Dear Mr. Kubrock:

I would like to request your attention to the serious need for improved electrical reliability in all areas of the state. In certain areas, such as mine, local topography dictates that increased reliability would best be obtained by choosing the underground placement of power lines, and likely also the telephone and cable system wiring.

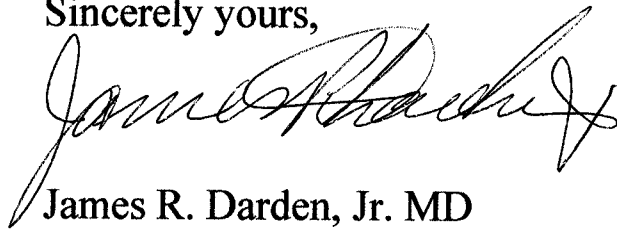
I have lived in this area for twenty two years, and have had many power outages, often prolonged, due to hurricanes, tornados, and ice storms. During the last 12 months, I have been without power 3.99% of the time. While these represented "acts of nature" they would not have happened if the wiring in our area was underground. In addition to the prolonged power outages that have occurred, there have been many transient outages lasting less than a minute, but these have often been associated with "surge currents" which, in my case, have destroyed a refrigerator compressor, a computer, and most recently the power supply and back-up system for the sump pump that prevents flooding of a

major part of my home. Cleanup and repairs will cost over \$2000.00 for this instance alone.

While I realize and understand both the costs and the problems associated with underground wiring, I expect it might not only be more reliable, but a less expensive means of power distribution for our area. Certainly the cost to Dominion Power of restoring power to our area has been quite significant, and the entire neighborhood has been inconvenienced, and subjected to personal expenses because of the failure to properly distribute electrical service to us.

I will be appreciative of your attention to this issue, and I would be delighted to discuss my areas needs with you at any time.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Darden, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James R. Darden, Jr. MD